

SOCIAL ASPECTS OF CLINICAL MEDICINE. By Jessie Garrard and Sir Max Rosenheim. (Pp. 174. £1.40). London: Ballière, Tindall & Cassell, 1970.

THIS book was written primarily for medical students starting clinical work. It will also be of considerable value to house officers and those entering general practice. It is concerned primarily with the individual patient, his relationships to his family and community and the relevance of these to the diagnosis and management of illness. As the authors write:

"The social aspects of clinical practice are becoming increasingly important and whether the young graduate is to become a general practitioner or to remain in the hospital service he must inevitably need to recognise social aspects of disease and to understand how he can help his patients by invoking the many social agencies that are now available and anxious to help."

"Social Aspects of Clinical Medicine" is short, readable, relevant and full of useful practical information. It starts with a section on the patient's social history dealing with his family, occupation, finance, housing and attitudes. There follow 14 illustrative social case histories which make compelling reading. The third part deals with the training and function of those who work in the community and hospital medical teams and emphasises that the effective practice of medicine today requires the co-ordinated activity of all those working in the now numerous health and welfare professions. This section also contains a short historical survey of the development of the health and welfare services and concludes with a useful short description of those services today.

This book provides an interesting introduction to social medicine based on the social aspects of the clinical case. It is also a useful short guide to the medical and social services in England and Wales. It would add to its usefulness if in the next edition the authors would insert a short section on the ways in which the services in Scotland and Northern Ireland differ from those in England and Wales.

J.P.

CONCISE ANTIBIOTIC TREATMENT. By W. Howard Hughes, M.D., B.S., F.R.C.Path., and H. C. Stewart, M.D., Ph.D., F.R.C.P. (Pp. xiii+133. £1.00). London: Butterworth, 1970.

There cannot be many books at such a modest price – £1 – that one could so confidently commend to a wide medical readership. Much information, much wisdom and much food for thought have been succinctly compressed in its small compass and this extends even to the appendices which show, for example, equivalent and approved means of drugs and the relative costs of treatment. Minor criticisms can be made. For example, on page 101, not everyone would agree that *Staphylococcus* 502A should be used to displace other more dangerous strains in carriers, since this strain itself is not entirely devoid of virulence. Everyone having to use antibiotics will find this book useful, and I consider it required reading for students and all kinds of practitioner alike. I would be happy to see it in every ward and unit accessible to the hands of both consultant and house officer.

W.S.

CLEFT PALATE AND SPEECH. By Muriel E. Morley. Seventh Edition. (Pp. xx+307; figs. 107. £2.00). Edinburgh and London: E. & S. Livingstone, 1970.

WITHIN the 25 years since this book was first published great progress has been made in helping the cleft palate patient to acquire normal speech. Plastic surgeons, orthodontists, and speech therapists cooperate to achieve this. The text has been updated – it includes references to Cinéradiography, electro-encephalography and its direct visual study by the Taub panendoscope. The book is well illustrated and tabulated. Miss Morley outlines the embryology, anatomy, surgery, orthodontics and prosthetics. Her aim is to help the student and speech pathologist to understand the condition more fully.

B.S.K.